

worked as an associate producer on "The Sistema Is Over," a series based on issues relevant to the daily lives of Latinos in the U.S. In 1986, she cofounded the National Hispanic Media Coalition, an organization that monitors Federal Communications Commission regulations on broadcast media. The organization successfully petitioned the FCC to revoke broadcast licenses of those television stations who neglected to hire a sufficient number of Latinos.

Esther's work did not end with her behind-the-scenes efforts to make Latinos more visible on national TV. She also founded the Hispanic Americans for Fairness in Media to award scholarships to young students who aspire to future careers in media. Esther's advocacy on behalf of the Latino community has been instrumental to the changes that have taken effect since. Esther is survived by her husband, Martin Rentería, former chief of police for the Montebello Unified District's police department, four sons, and a sister.

I extend my sympathy to Esther's husband, children, and family. She will be missed dearly.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall vote No. 110. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 556, the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. TIM SNOW

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Tim Snow for his long and distinguished career at Thomas & Mack Development Group.

Tim began his work with the Thomas & Mack Development Group in California during the mid-1980s and soon after moved to Las Vegas where he was instrumental in implementing extensive land development projects. Tim is responsible for developing a 100-acre area of land near McCarren International Airport into the McCarren Center. Today, the McCarren Center is comprised of 30 buildings and nearly 2 million square feet of office and light industrial space.

During his tenure at Thomas & Mack Development, Mr. Snow also developed a 20-acre ranch which today stands as the headquarters for Harrah's Entertainment. While with the Thomas & Mack Development Group, Mr. Snow oversaw the development of the Blue Diamond Ranches, the Eastgate Plaza, and the Nevada Financial Center. Mr. Snow also shares an ownership position in the important 100-acre Northern Beltway Industrial Center. Throughout his long and illustrious career with

the Thomas & Mack Development Group, Tim has guided the expansion of the Las Vegas Valley and his vision has led to the development of a mature business and thriving community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Tim Snow. His dedication to the Las Vegas community is commendable and I applaud his distinguished record of success. I wish him the best in his retirement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to reasons beyond my control.

On Monday, March 5, 2007, I had to tend to some family matters and thus missed rollcall votes 119 and 120. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

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RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES OF ODESSA BROWN

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege that I rise today to recognize Odessa Juanita Brown for her achievements and milestones as she celebrated her 85th birthday on March 1, 2007. I have known Odessa for most of my life. She and her husband Frank, and their children lived on Cimarron Street, in Los Angeles, and my family lived around the corner—that date's back to the late-1950s. Our families have remained in contact since then.

Odessa Brown has remained a committed community servant, participant in civic and fraternal groups, and an active church member over that 50-year period. She has been a member of Trinity Baptist Church for 61 years; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Chapter Alpha Gamma Omega of Los Angeles, California, the same Chapter of which I am a member, for 25 years; and a volunteer at the election polls for the last 20 years. Odessa has been Worthy Matron of Skylight Chapter 51 of the Eastern Star and was a member of the NAACP. Today she is taking computer technology classes at Santa Monica Emeritus College. Not enough of a role model, yet? Well, Odessa has maintained an exercise routine of walking a mile almost every day for more than two decades—including hills, by the way.

Odessa Brown's leadership skills, her commitment to service, and her creative talents have been a true lifetime blessing to her family and community. She served as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader of her daughters' troops. She used her artistry to design and sew her daughters' beautiful handmade dresses when they were small. Everyone knew the three Brown girls because of their uniquely crafted dresses.

Odessa's culinary talents are also memorable, and family, friends, visitors have craved her cooking from coast to coast. She has creatively hosted small and large family dinners and barbeques, and cooked for neighborhood block parties and festivals. Her "monkey bread," oh, yes, that monkey bread—is the most desired food at all family gatherings.

Odessa is a dedicated and devout Christian, and her church continues to be important part of her life. She and her husband, Frank, joined Trinity Baptist Church in 1946, the year they were married. She has been an active member since. Their five children—Marion, Gwen, Kathleen, Frank, and Reginald—grew up in Trinity. Her grandson, James, attends Trinity, and her other grandchildren, who live outside Los Angeles—Cameron, Brian, Rachel, Charesse, Kahlil, Imani, and Camara—have visited. Odessa's great grandchildren, Cameron and Ciera, are expected to one day be the fourth generation to worship at Trinity. Odessa is a Deaconess and is a longtime member of the Gospel Choir, which was directed by the late Inez Caston. Odessa regularly and lovingly still participates in church projects.

Odessa was born in Lewisville, Arkansas, on March 1, 1922, and Frank was born in Stamps, Arkansas. They joined the church not long after they had moved to Los Angeles. They were part of the great war-era migration of African Americans from the south to the north and west.

Odessa was the fifth child of Annie and Joe Brown. She had three brothers—Joseph, Clarence (deceased), and Cleant, and three sisters, Mary (deceased), Bernice (deceased), and Margie. The church was an important part of their community and Odessa was baptized at Galilee Baptist Church in Lewisville at 11 years of age.

From a young child, Odessa was extremely creative, artistic, and talented, whether she was in the kitchen helping her mother bake or designing and sewing outfits for her dolls. She started cooking at the age of seven and her teacher was her sister, Mary. When her parents attended church, they would return to a fantastic meal. Her parents were surprised to find out that she was the genius behind the great family meals. Her mother taught her how to sew and she quickly picked up the skill. She always helped her Mom around the house.

Odessa's parents were extremely resourceful. The Brown family understood the value of land ownership. Annie Brown's family was considered middle class, and they owned land. She inherited river land from her parents, which is still owned by the Brown Family, and she and her husband, Joe, purchased land together, as well. Joe was a hard working, proud farmer who raised his seven kids with the proceeds from the land. He grew corn, cotton, truck patches (watermelon), and raised animals (chickens, hogs and cows). He marketed his own products and sold direct to consumers. He also showcased his animals at conventions and fairs.

He was a chef and cooked at clubhouses, and was known for another unique skill—making ice cream. He sold his produce and ice cream at church conventions, and his fondness for making ice cream was passed down to Odessa, who developed homemade ice cream as a specialty. Annie also was an entrepreneur and learned how to use a pressure